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DURHAM, N.H. -- Tulane University Political Science Professor Ray Taras will share his first-hand observations of the disaster zone decision making after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 4 p.m. in Memorial Union Building Theatre II at the University of New Hampshire. The talk, part of the New Hampshire International Seminar Series, is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served at 3:40 p.m.

Taras will discuss his theory that, while most everyone agrees that a breakdown in communications was the primary cause of the chaos that ensued, psychological breakdowns also occurred in the days after the storm. According to Taras, "Post traumatic stress syndrome suffered by usually competent leaders on the ground, combined with the obliviousness and usual incompetence of Bush administration officials, led to hundreds of needless deaths, tens of thousands of lives changed forever, and billions of dollars of property damage."

The author of numerous publications on authoritarian systems, democratic transitions, political leadership and identity politics, Taras will deconstruct the political failure of disaster response and the rebuilding debate in New Orleans.

For more information, call (603) 862-2398.